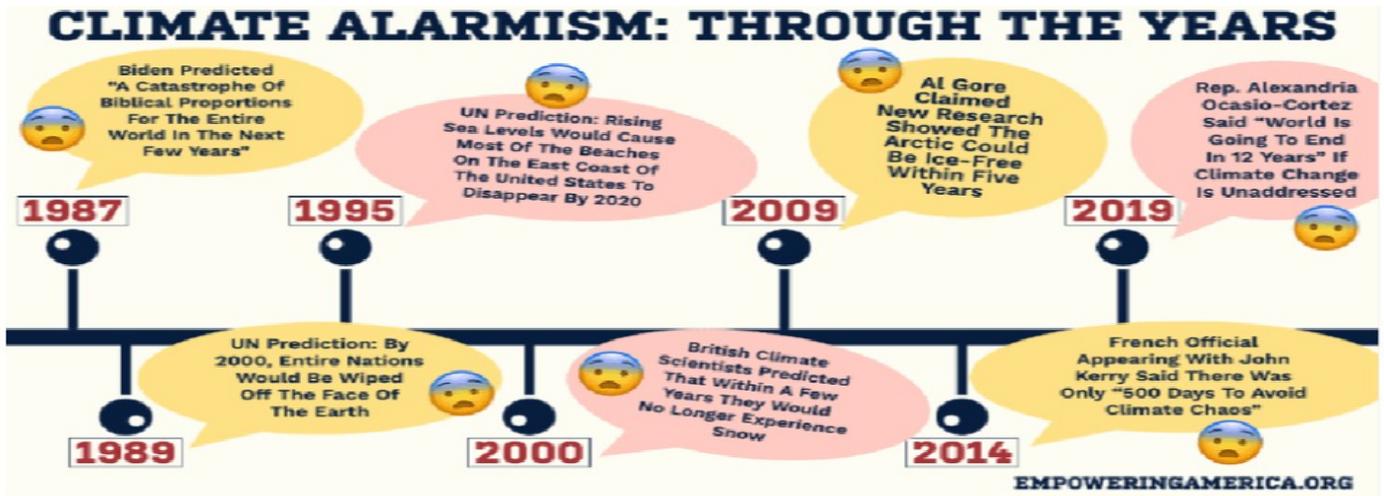


Climate Science and Policy for Nonscientists

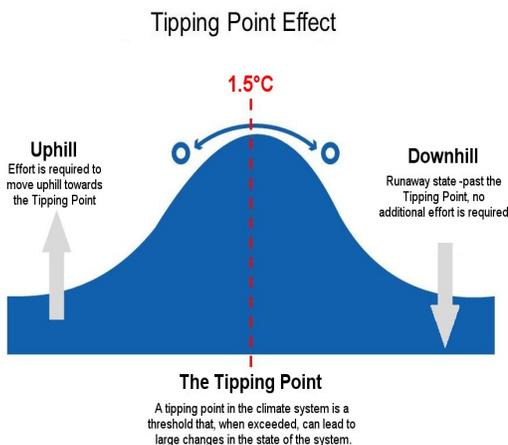
One Picture is Worth a Thousand Words.



Bill Gates Recants on Climate Alarmism

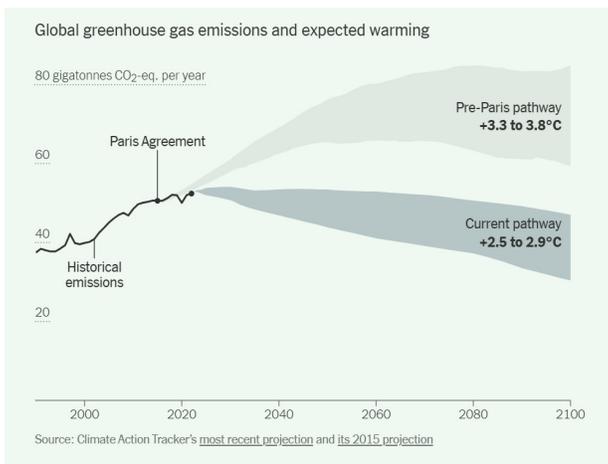
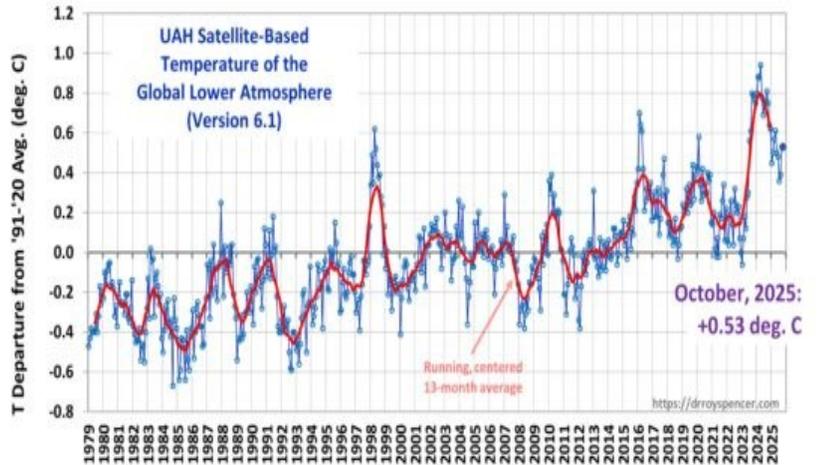
For over 40 years politicians and the media have been warning of impending climate disasters, which have not occurred. Bill Gates has supported this narrative and has been described as “one of the world’s most prominent climate influencers.” In 2021 he published a book titled, “How to Avoid a Climate Disaster.”

But Gates has now recanted in an October 2025 statement, which has been called a “stunning shift” in view. Gates now acknowledges that climate change “will not be the end of civilization.” The doomsday view of climate change is wrong. While rising temperatures are a “serious problem,” Gates now identifies poverty and disease as bigger problems than climate change.



Alarmists often claim that the Paris Agreement limits of 1.5 C or 2.0 C temperature rise mark the point at which “tipping points” begin. Thus exceeding the 1.5 C temperature rise will supposedly lead to “catastrophic, cascading consequences.” But the Paris goals are political goals and are not based on science. There is no link between the Paris goals and tipping point. (See CliSciPol Science Topic: Tipping Points and Paris Goals). Gates now acknowledges that the “current consensus” is that the temperature rise by 2100 will be between 2 and 3 C (surpassing both the 1.5 and 2.0 Paris goals), and that this rise does not represent any existential threat. Rather people will be able to live and thrive in most places on earth for the foreseeable future.

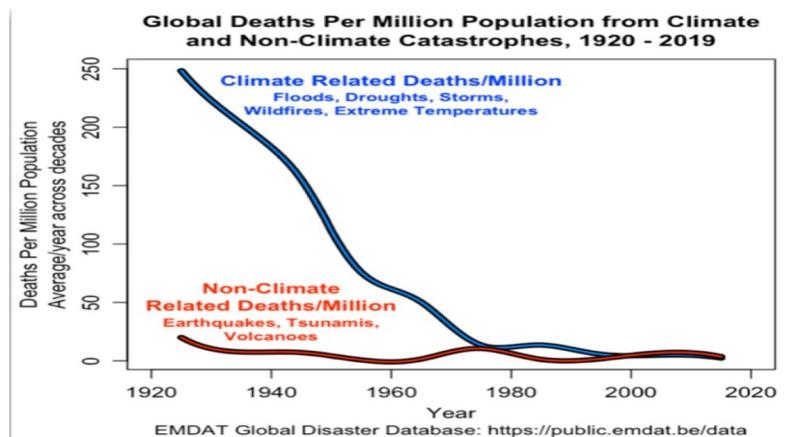
Whenever an El Nino spike drives up temperatures, as it did in 2023-2024, alarmists claim that temperature rise is accelerating. But, as the El Nino faded during 2025, temperatures have declined significantly, as shown, rebutting the claim of acceleration. IPCC AR6 makes no claim of acceleration. The data since 1979 shows a roughly linear temperature rise at the rate of about 1.6 C per century, which suggests a further rise of 1.2 C by the year 2100 and a total warming since the preindustrial of 2.4-2.5 C.



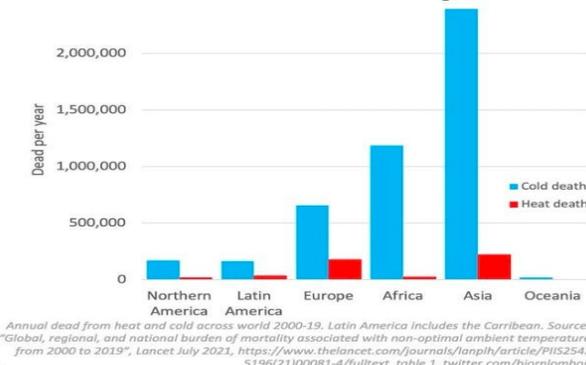
The UN Emissions Gap Report 2025 admits that over the 10 years of the Paris Agreement there has been a “big drop” in temperatures predicted by 2100, as shown. Roger Pielke observes that a “strong consensus” has developed that the world is heading for < 3 C warming by 2100 with “many projections” at < 2.5 C. Both Gates and Pielke agree that such warming, while a cause for concern, is not a cause for alarm. The temperature rise now predicted is sufficiently low that some scientists argue that the change is more likely to be net beneficial than harmful. (See CliSciPol Science Topic: Greening World).

POVERTY AND DISEASE

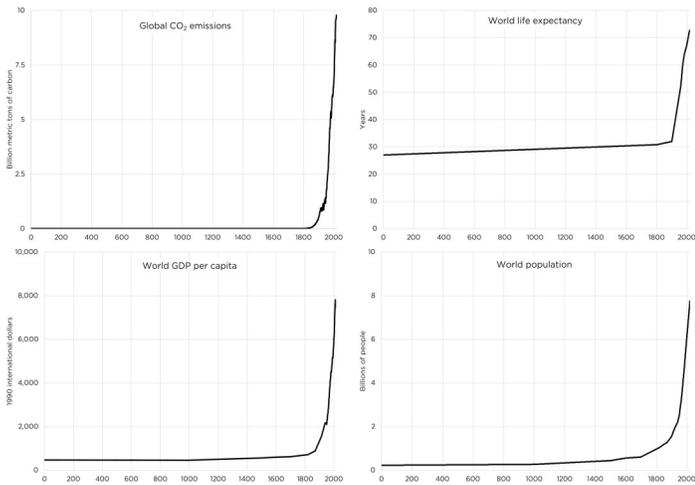
Gates identifies poverty and disease as bigger problems than climate change. This is supported by the data on human deaths. Since 1920 the death rate from extreme climate events has fallen dramatically. These figures include deaths from extreme temperatures (both hot and cold).



Lancet: More Cold Death Than Heat Death Everywhere

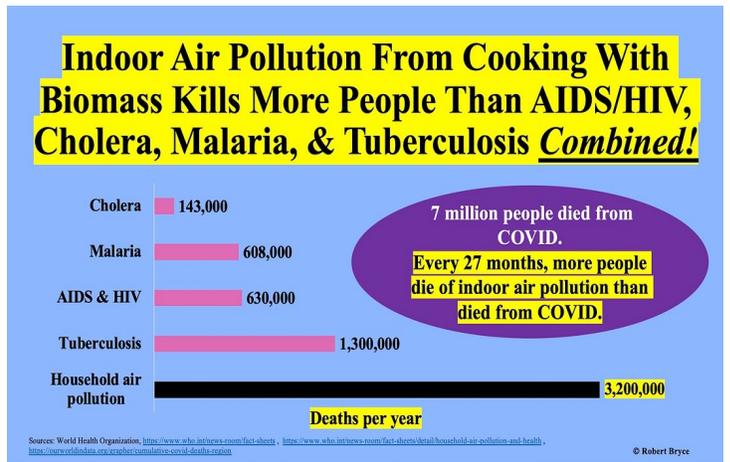


Studies conclude that deaths from extreme cold are roughly ten times more common than deaths from extreme heat. Thus, as the world warms, the number of overall deaths from extreme temperatures declines. Deaths from extreme temperatures can reasonably be attributed more to poverty than to climate change, because the people who die are those unable to afford air conditioning in the summer or home heating in the winter.

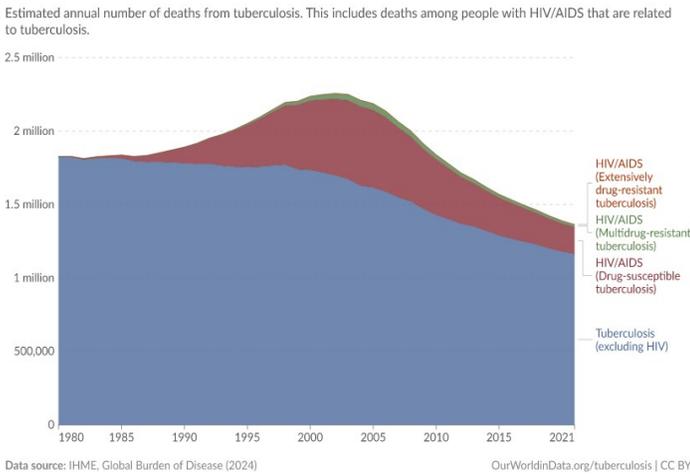


In general warmth is good for human health and prosperity. While world temperatures and CO2 levels have risen significantly over the last century, humans have flourished in terms of life expectancy, population, and wealth, as shown. And world food production has increased enough to feed the huge growth in world population. (See CliSciPol Science Topic: Greening World).

It is poverty that causes people to cook their food and heat their homes by burning biomass (wood, dung, and various biological waste materials). These are extremely dirty fuels - much more so than coal or even diesel. The resulting indoor air pollution kills over three million people per year.



Deaths from tuberculosis including those from HIV/AIDS, World, 1980 to 2021



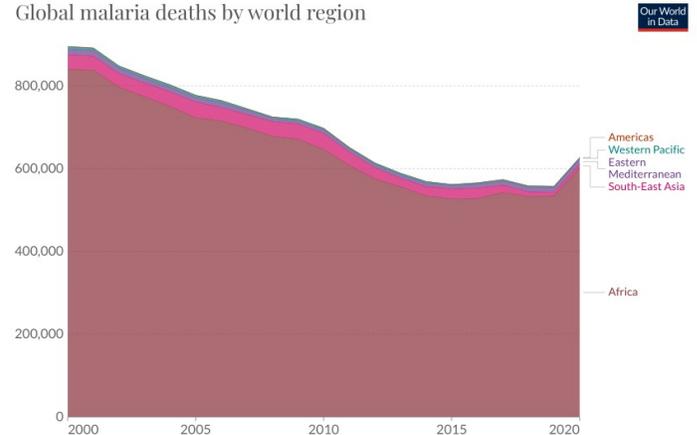
Data source: IHME, Global Burden of Disease (2024) OurWorldInData.org/tuberculosis | CC BY

Malaria deaths have been declining but still are around 600,000 per year, mostly in Africa.

To save human lives the focus should be on poverty and disease more than on climate change.

As to major diseases, tuberculosis deaths are still around 1.3-1.5 million per year depending on how many HIV deaths are considered to be tuberculosis related.

Global malaria deaths by world region



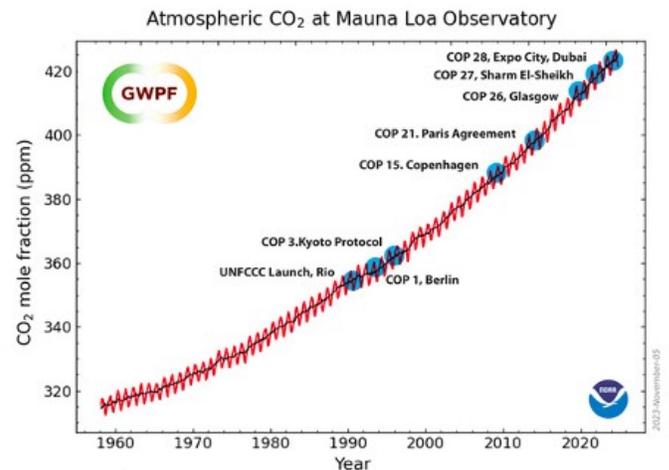
Source: Global Malaria Programme, World Health Organization OurWorldInData.org/malaria • CC BY



COP30

The thirtieth world climate conference, COP30, met in Brazil November 10-21, 2025.

Since COP1 met in Berlin in 1995 atmospheric CO₂ levels have continued their steady rise, and in recent years the rate of rise has slightly increased. All the past COP meetings have failed to produce the slightest decrease in the rate of CO₂ rise. Environmental writer Richard Bailey contends that the UN climate change conferences are “an exercise in futility.”



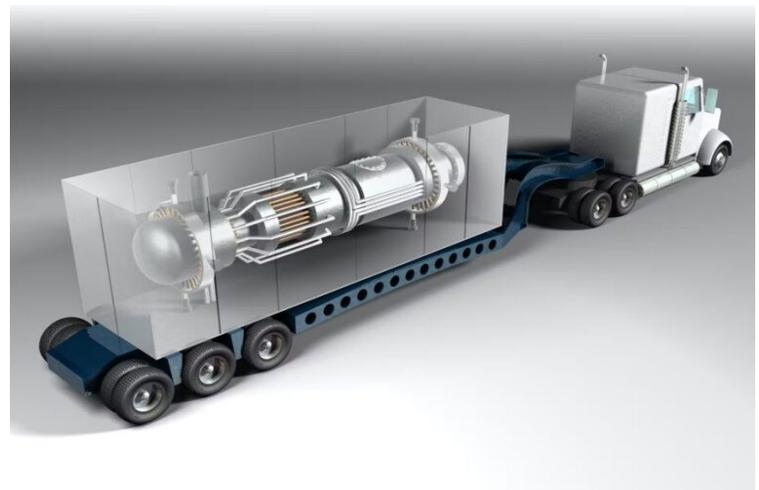
REALITY CHECK: 33 YEARS OF UN CLIMATE TALKFESTS



Gov. Gavin Newsom meets with Chilean officials in Belém, Brazil, on Nov. 12, 2025. | Camille von Kaenel/POLITICO

SMALL NUCLEAR REACTORS

The US navy has been safely operating small nuclear reactors aboard its ships since the launch of the Nautilus in 1954. Now the army is planning to have operational by 2028 nine such small reactors on various army bases around the US (Project Janus). These reactors are small enough to be flown in by airplane or carried on the back of a flatbed truck (see image), so they will be suitable for forward deployment abroad, as needed



This COP meeting has been a photo-op event. President Trump has withdrawn the US from the Paris Agreement. The US and over 30 other countries did not send official delegations. But California Governor Gavin Newsom has chosen to attend. The 197 participating countries each was to submit an updated emission reduction plan prior to the meeting, but only 69 (35%) did so. In effect, the participating nations have given up trying to limit CO₂ emissions.

Climate Reality Hits Nantucket

Even Massachusetts Democrats are rethinking CO2 emissions targets.

CLIMATE REALITY

Natural gas provides 80% of Massachusetts's electricity and about half of the state's home heating. Gas prices in Massachusetts are 239% higher than the national average, and residential electricity rates are 72% higher. Back in 2021 in pursuit of "net zero," the Massachusetts legislature passed a law requiring, among other things, a 50% reduction of CO2 emissions below 1990 levels by 2030.

It is becoming increasingly obvious that the state's drive to promote wind and solar power is responsible for driving up electricity costs. It is also becoming increasingly obvious that the current construction cost of wind and solar projects, together with the Trump administration's reductions in government subsidies for such projects, make most such projects infeasible. If wind and solar projects were actually as cheap as supporters claim, they would not need the large subsidies that they have been receiving.

Democratic state representative Mark Cusack now plans to advance legislation to make the state's 2030 emissions target "advisory in nature and unenforceable" and to postpone the statutory deadlines for expanding off-shore wind.

